

CERENO

SU

MSASSYK

KIRKMAN



BLOOD THUNDER



**BENITO
CERENO**
WRITER

MSASSYK
COLORIST

E.J. SU & MSASSYK
DAVID LOPEZ
COVERS

CREATED BY
ROBERT KIRKMAN, BENITO CERENO & E.J. SU

NACHIE MARSHAM
EDITOR

JILLIAN CRAB
PUBLICATION DESIGN

**E.J.
SU**
ARTIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

ANDIE TONG & REX LOKUS
BERNARD CHANG

ANDRES JUAREZ
LOGO DESIGN

ASHBY FLORENCE
PRODUCTION DESIGN

FOR SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT • ROBERT KIRKMAN Chairman • DAVID ALPERT CEO • SEAN MACKIEWICZ SVP, Publisher • ANDRES JUAREZ Creative Director, Editorial • ARUNE SINGH VP, Brand, Editorial • SHANNON MEEHAN Senior Public Relations Manager • ALEX ANTONIO Editorial Director • BEN ABERNATHY Executive Editor • DIEGS LOPEZ Senior Editor • NACHIE MARSHAM Senior Editor • CAITLIN CHAPPELL Assistant Editor • BLAKE KOBASHIGAWA Senior Director, Business Development, Editorial • JILLIAN CRAB Associate Art Director, Editorial • ASHBY FLORENCE Production Artist • ABIGAIL LEE Production Artist • RICHARD MERCADO Production Artist • ALEX HARGETT Director of Brand, Editorial • EV CLEMENTS Brand Specialist, Editorial • ANNA GEORGE Brand Coordinator, Editorial • GREG FOREMAN Senior Crowdfunding Manager • DAN PETERSEN Senior Director, Publishing Operations • Foreign Rights & Licensing Inquiries: foreignlicensing@skybound.com • SKYBOUND.COM

FOR IMAGE COMICS, INC. • ROBERT KIRKMAN Chief Operating Officer • ERIK LARSEN Chief Financial Officer • TODD MCFARLANE President • MARC SILVESTRI Chief Executive Officer • JIM VALENTINO Executive Vice President • ERIC STEPHENSON Publisher / Chief Creative Officer • IMAGECOMICS.COM



BLOOD & THUNDER #4. AUGUST 2025. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of Publication: PO BOX 14457, Portland, OR 97293. © 2025 Robert Kirkman, Inc., Benito Cereno & E.J. Su. All Rights Reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Digital Edition.







I SAID
BACK!

SKREEEEEEEE!

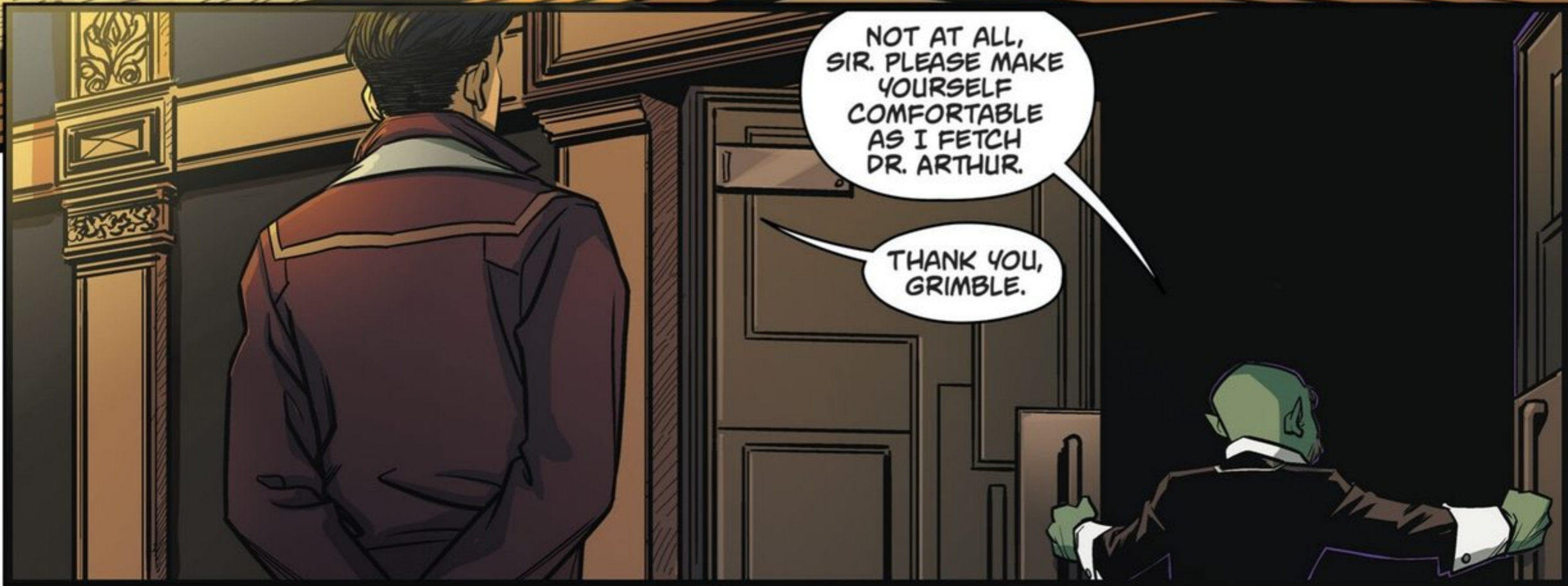


KREEEEEEEESSSSCHHH!



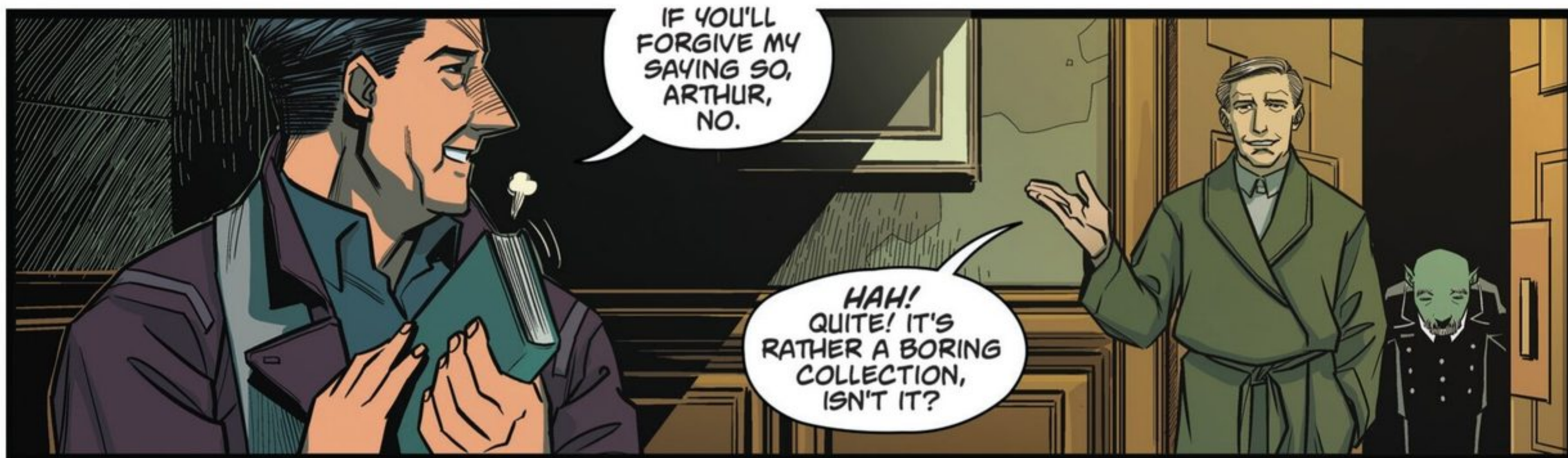
BEEEEEESSSSSSCCCCCHHHH!







FIND
SOMETHING THAT
INTERESTS YOU,
RICHTER?



IF YOU'LL
FORGIVE MY
SAYING SO,
ARTHUR,
NO.

HAH!
QUITE! IT'S
RATHER A BORING
COLLECTION,
ISN'T IT?



NOT MUCH OF
INTEREST TO THE
SCIENTIFICALLY
MINDED,
CERTAINLY.

NO, NOR MUCH
OF VALUE EITHER, I'M
AFRAID. MY COLLECTION
IS PERFUNCTORY AT
BEST, SIMPLY FOR
APPEARANCES, IF I MAY
SPEAK HONESTLY.



YOU HAVE HEARD OF
THE RECENT RASH OF
BURGLARIES OF MEN
OF SCIENCE, I
PRESUME?

YES, OF
COURSE.
SIMPLY
DREADFUL.

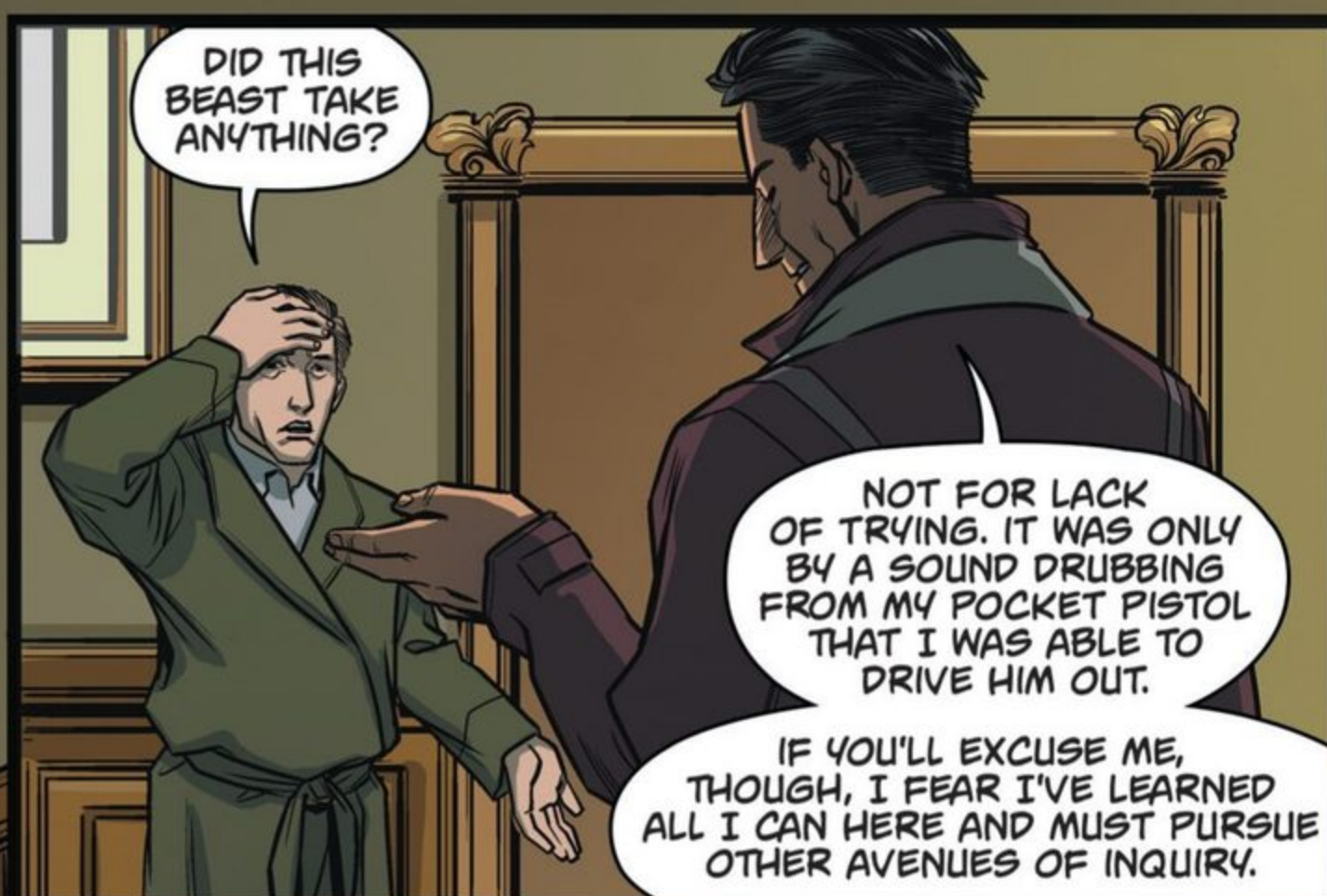
YOU YOURSELF
HAVE NOT BEEN
VICTIM OF SUCH
AN INTRUSION?



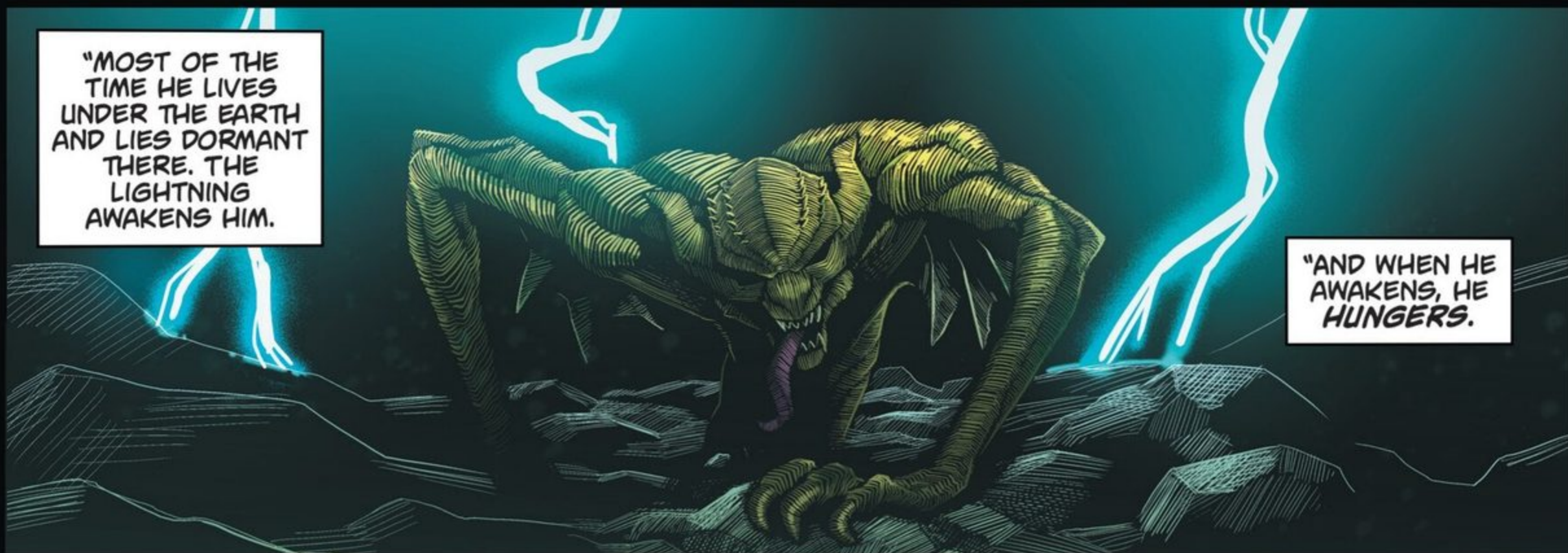
QUITE RIGHT,
RICHTER. HOW
COULD YOU
KNOW?

THE PERPETRATOR
SEEMS TO BE TARGETING
LIBRARIES OF LEARNED MEN,
AND THIS MEAGER ASSEMBLAGE
MAY NOT HAVE BEEN A
SUFFICIENTLY ENTICING BAIT.

I MYSELF
WAS STRUCK
LAST NIGHT, AS
IT HAPPENS.







"MOST OF THE TIME HE LIVES UNDER THE EARTH AND LIES DORMANT THERE. THE LIGHTNING AWAKENS HIM.

"AND WHEN HE AWAKENS, HE HUNGERS.



"HE SEEKS HOMES WITH OPEN DOORS OR LARGE WINDOWS THROUGH WHICH HIS LARGE FRAME MAY ENTER IN HIS SEARCH FOR REPAST.

"HIS TASTES, I'M AFRAID, VERGE ON MOST UNHOLY.



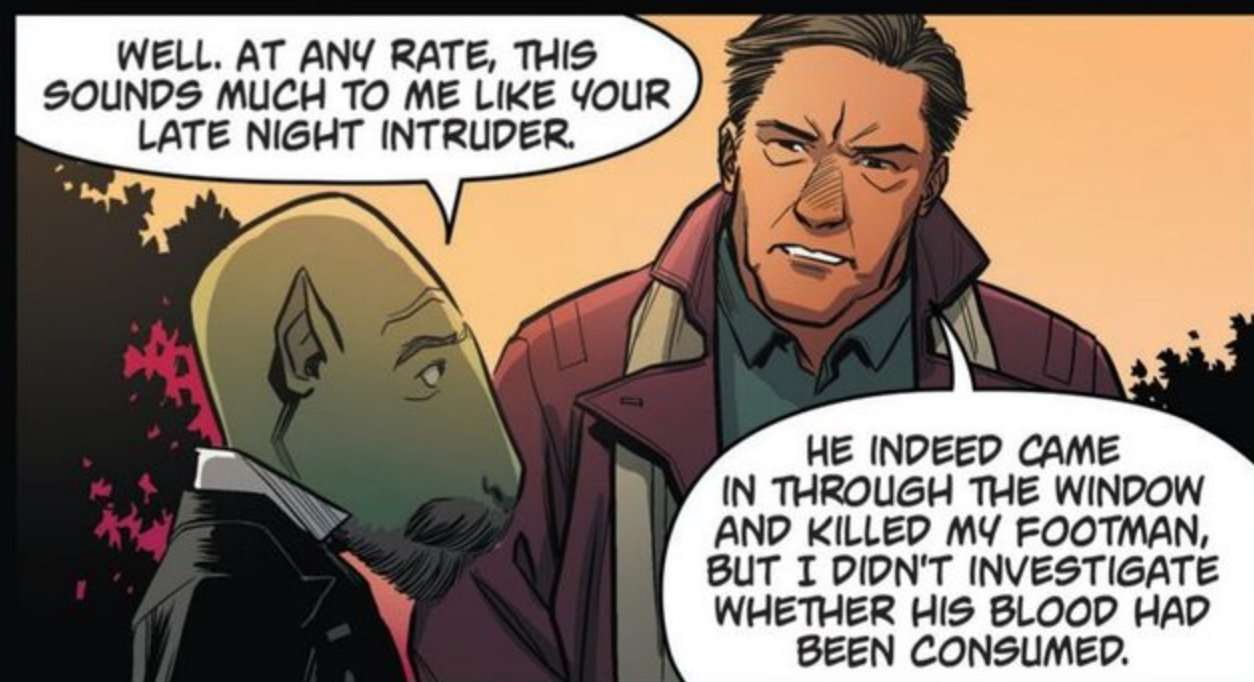
"HIS ONLY FOOD IS THE GJAK THAT SETTLES IN THE BASE OF PUGMAI SKULLS--"



"GJAK"? WHAT IS THAT, BLOOD?

GJAK IS... NOT BLOOD. IT IS A...LIFE-GIVING FLUID WITHOUT WHICH WE MALLEANS CANNOT FUNCTION.

YES, YES. BLOOD THEN. THIS THING DRINKS BLOOD?



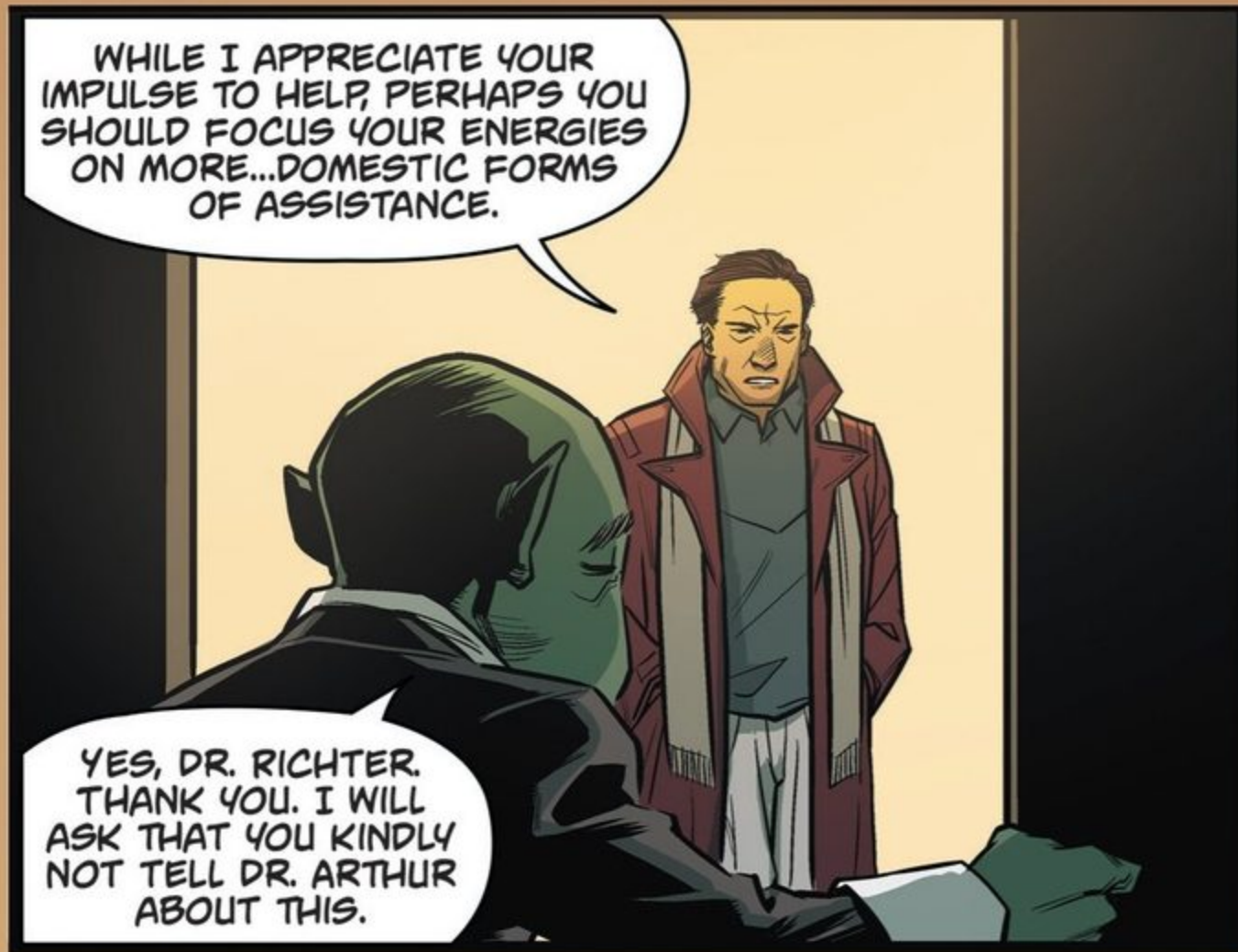
WELL. AT ANY RATE, THIS SOUNDS MUCH TO ME LIKE YOUR LATE NIGHT INTRUDER.

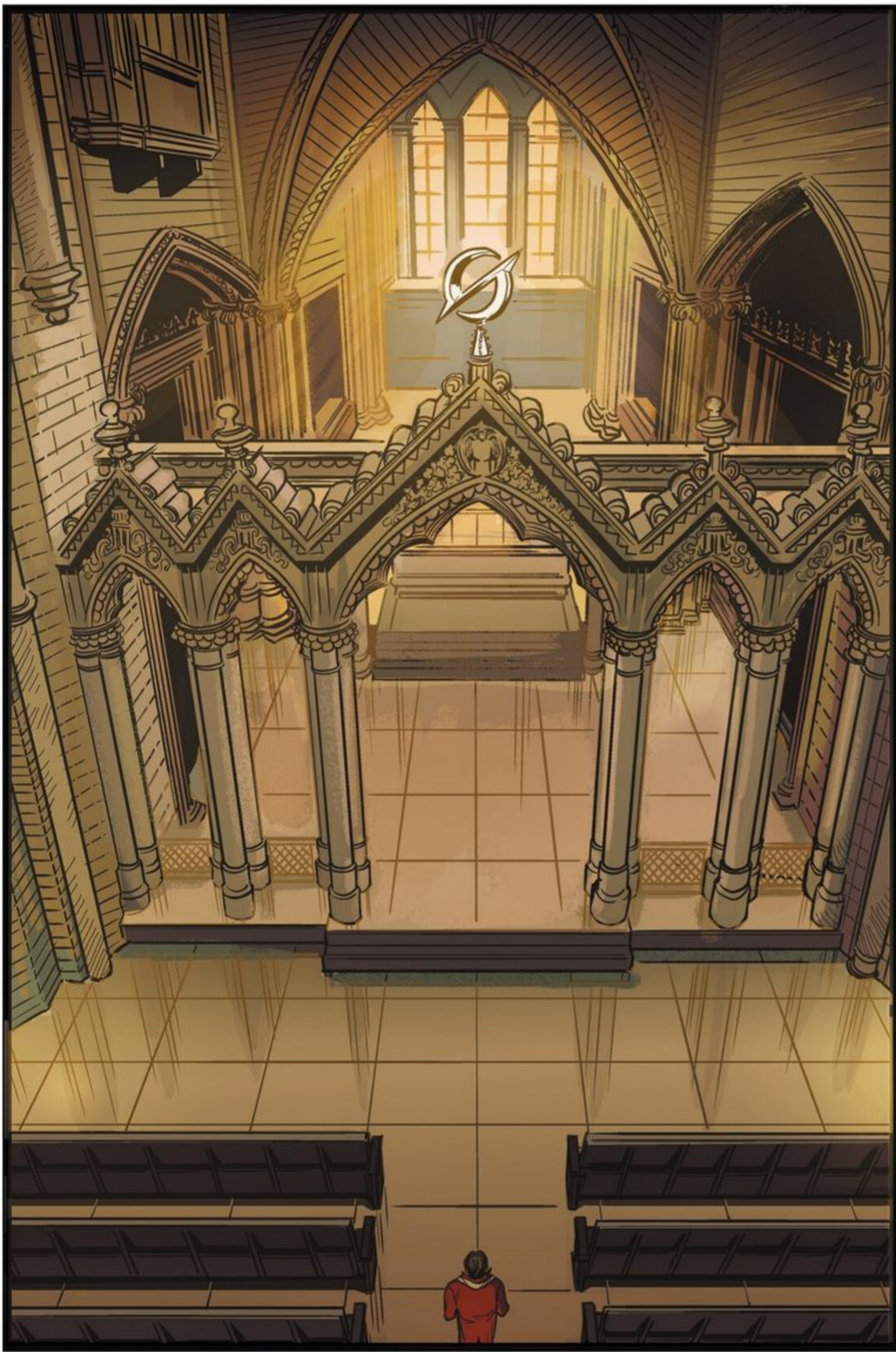
HE INDEED CAME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW AND KILLED MY FOOTMAN, BUT I DIDN'T INVESTIGATE WHETHER HIS BLOOD HAD BEEN CONSUMED.



YOUR F--? PADSH IS D--

BUT THIS NATIVE NONSENSE CANNOT BE, GRIMBLE. WE HAVE SEARCHED THIS PLANET AND NO SUCH CREATURE EXISTS. SCIENCE WON'T ALLOW IT.







AH! YES, HELLO, FATHER. I WAS HOPING TO SPEAK TO YOU.

I'M GLAD, DR. RICHTER. WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU HERE IN SOME TIME.



TRUE, FATHER, BUT YOU'LL AGREE THAT THE PURSUIT OF MY WORK--WHICH HAS KEPT ME AWAY--FURTHERS THE IDEALS OF THE CHURCH?

OF COURSE, DR. RICHTER. NO ONE WOULD QUESTION YOUR DEDICATION.

WHAT IS IT I CAN DO FOR YOU?



I'D BEEN PONDERING THE BURGLARIES AGAINST THE SCIENTIFICALLY INCLINED, AND LAST NIGHT I FOUND MYSELF THE VICTIM OF SUCH A CRIME.

THE INTRUDER RIFLED THROUGH MY LIBRARY AND KILLED MY FOOTMAN, BUT IT SEEMS NOTHING OF VALUE WAS TAKEN.

I HAD BELIEVED THAT SURELY THE BOOKS WERE THE KEY, AS THOSE SEEM TO BE THE TARGET OF THE THIEF, BUT THEN...



WELL, THIS IS GOING TO SOUND RIDICULOUS, BUT I SPOKE TO DR. ARTHUR'S MAN, GRIMBLE. A MALLEAN, YOU KNOW, BUT A DECENT ENOUGH SORT.

HE SPUN THIS YARN ABOUT A CREATURE THAT COMES IN THE NIGHT AND ENTERS HOMES AND DRINKS BLOOD FROM THOSE INSIDE.

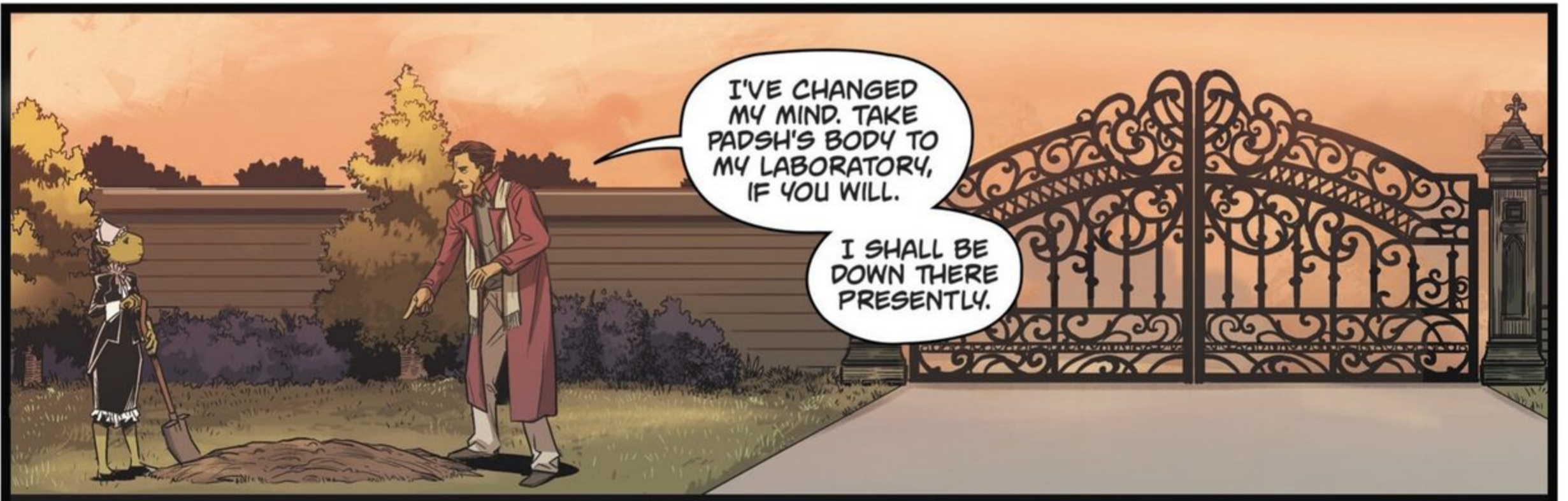
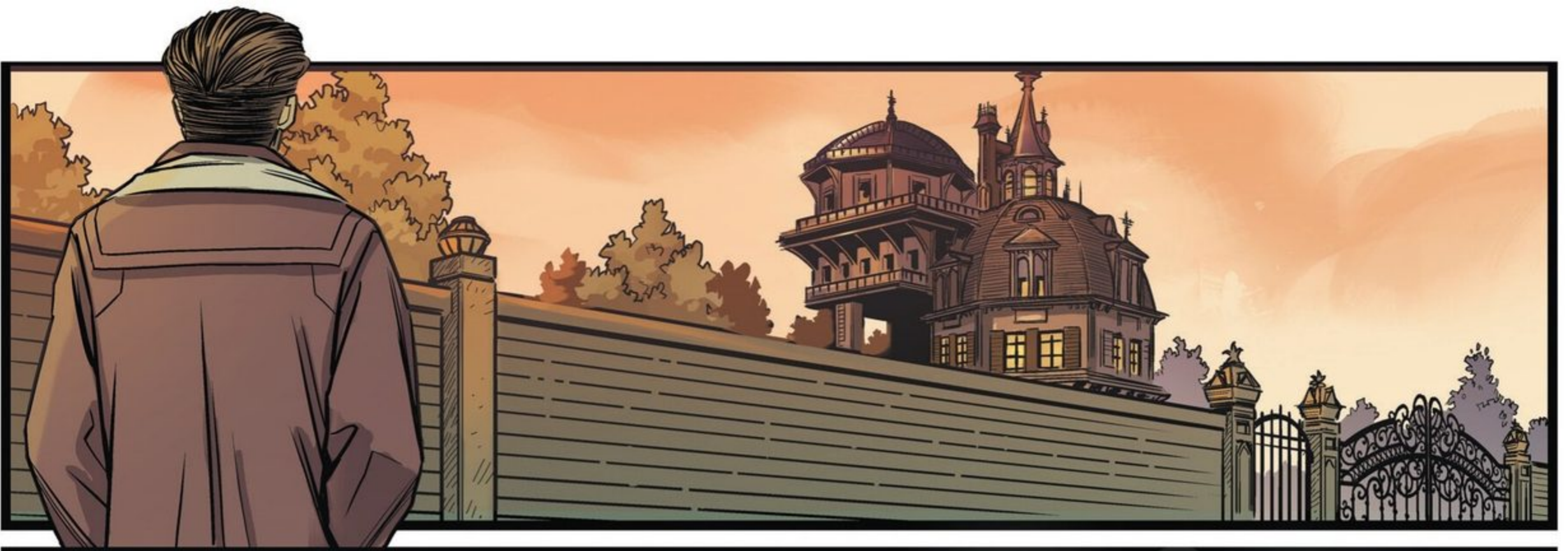
I ASK YOU, FATHER, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD SUCH A THING?



YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED, DOCTOR.

IN FACT, THE MEN OF EARTH USED TO TELL SUCH A STORY THEMSELVES. DON'T BE SURPRISED--THE CHURCH HAS HAD TO COMBAT ALL MANNER OF NONSENSE OVER THE YEARS.







FIELD
JOURNAL OF
DR. FREDERICK
RICHTER,
ASSIGNED TO THE
MALLEUS IX
COLONY.

NOTES ON
THE DAY OF MAY
23, BY LOCAL
RECKONING.



I HAVE FOUND MYSELF IN POSSESSION OF A
DEAD FOOTMAN--A NATIVE MALLEAN, NATURALLY.
THE NATURE OF HIS DEATH HAS COINCIDED WITH
MY INQUIRIES INTO THE CRIMES MENTIONED IN MY
PREVIOUS ENTRY, AND AS SUCH HAVE SUPERSEDED
EVEN MY WORK WITH MY PREVIOUS SUBJECT,
WHOSE BODY NOW LIES FALLOW NEXT
TO THE DEPARTED FOOTMAN.

DESPITE A
REASSURING CONVERSATION
WITH THE PRIEST AT THE VILLAGE
CHURCH, I HAVE NEVERTHELESS
FOUND MYSELF WITH NAGGING
CONCERNS BROUGHT ON BY
ANOTHER NATIVE'S TALL TALES
OF A CREATURE WHO DRINKS
BLOOD FROM THE BASE OF
ONE'S SKULL.

I SIMPLY MUST
SATISFY MY CURIOSITY
ALONG THIS LINE OF
INQUIRY, OR I FEAR MY
RESTLESS MIND WOULD
NEVER ALLOW ME EVEN
ONE WINK OF SLEEP
EVER AGAIN.



I WILL CONDUCT A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE SKULLS OF THE TWO MALLEANS, LOOKING FOR THE BLOOD THAT RESIDES THERE, ACCORDING TO ARTHUR'S MAN GRIMBLE.

IF THE SLAIN MALLEAN IS LACKING A BLOOD SUPPLY IN HIS SKULL WHERE MY PREVIOUS SUBJECT SHOWS SIGNS OF HAVING HAD AN ORGAN FULL OF BLOOD, WELL...



SUBJECT A, THE SLAIN MALLEAN, WAS IN FACT DRAINED OF BLOOD FROM THE SKULL. LITTLE SURPRISE, AS HE WAS KILLED BY TRAUMA TO THE HEAD.

WHETHER THERE IS AN ORGAN AT THE SKULL'S BASE FOR HOLDING FLUID IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE DUE TO SUBSTANTIAL TISSUE DAMAGE.



NOW TO COMPARE THE SKULL OF SUBJECT B, MY PREVIOUS TEST SUBJECT. THE PRESENCE OF SOME KIND OF BLOOD ORGAN HAS YET TO BE CONFIR--

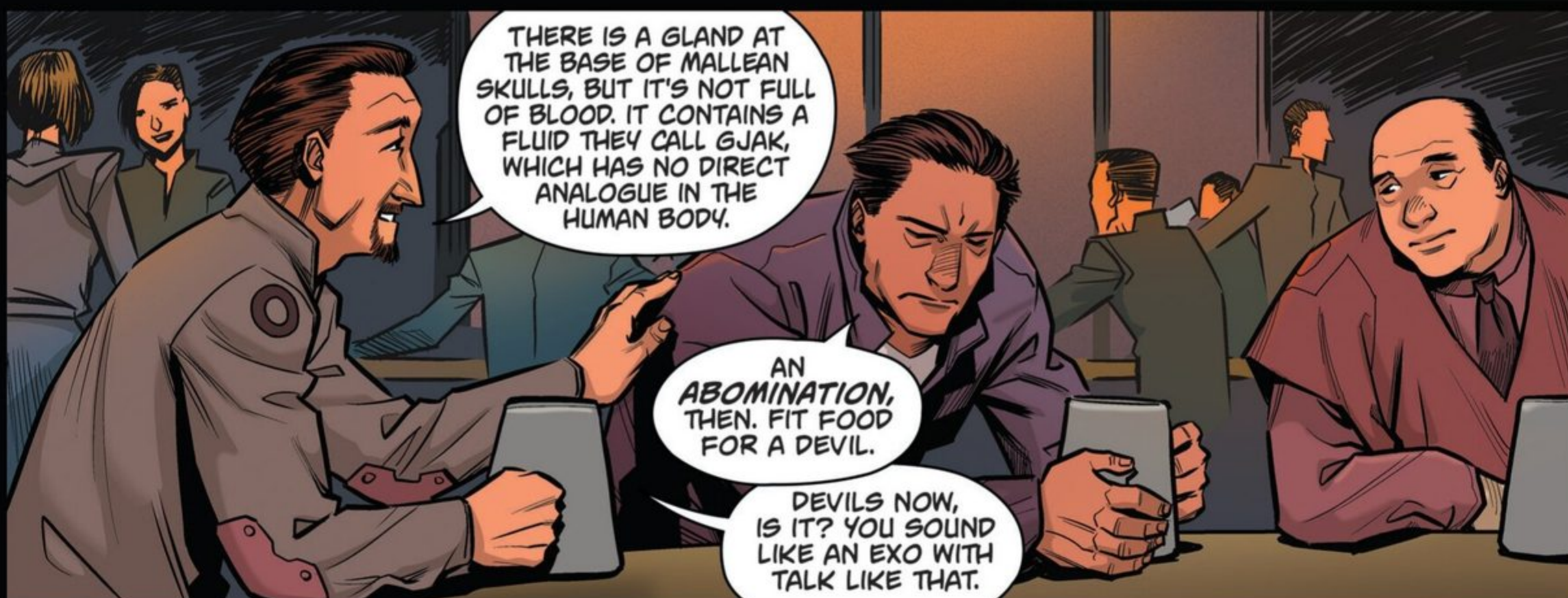




--AND I TELL YOU, THE SKULL WAS DRAINED, JUST AS ARTHUR'S MAN SAID IT WOULD BE!

I SCARCELY KNOW WHAT TO THINK, GENTLEMEN.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK, RICHTER. YOU'VE LET YOURSELF GET CARRIED AWAY BY NATIVE LIES.



THERE IS A GLAND AT THE BASE OF MALLEAN SKULLS, BUT IT'S NOT FULL OF BLOOD. IT CONTAINS A FLUID THEY CALL GJAK, WHICH HAS NO DIRECT ANALOGUE IN THE HUMAN BODY.

AN ABOMINATION, THEN. FIT FOOD FOR A DEVIL.

DEVILS NOW, IS IT? YOU SOUND LIKE AN EXO WITH TALK LIKE THAT.



THE SIMPLEST SOLUTION IS THAT ALL YOUR MAN'S GACK LEAKED OUT WHEN THE VILLAIN STOVE HIS HEAD IN, NO?

IT'S GJAK, BUT YES, THIS IS THE REASONABLE CONCLUSION.



I THINK YOU NEED TO TURN YOUR FOCUS BACK TO THE BOOKS. EVEN IF YOUR EXO BEAST *IS* DRINKING DEEP DRAUGHTS OF MALLEAN SKULL WINE, HE'S STILL STEALING BOOKS, AND THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED.

SEE NOW, WHO HERE HAD THEIR LIBRARY BROKEN INTO?



RIGHT. BUT ONLY YOU, RICHTER, MANAGED TO CATCH THE BUGGER IN THE ACT.

IF YOU WERE IN *OUR* POSITION, YOU'D BE THINKING ABOUT THE *BOOKS* AND NOT SOME *STORY*.

LET'S TAKE STOCK, GENTLEMEN. WHAT BOOKS WERE TAKEN?



A BOOK OF LOCAL FLORA.



PRIMITIVE THEORIES ON INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL. *QUAINT*, REALLY.



I COULDN'T TRANSLATE MINE, IF I'M HONEST. THIS MALLEAN TONGUE DOES MY HEAD IN.



AND MINE WAS A COLLECTION OF LOCAL LIES.

HMM. I THOUGHT WE MIGHT ACCOMPLISH MORE BY THIS LINE OF INQUIRY, HONESTLY.



OUR BEST RECOURSE NOW IS TO CONSULT THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY, EH? ESPECIALLY IF, AS THE FATHER SAID, THEY'RE ALREADY LOOKING INTO A VICIOUS OUT-OF-TOWNER.

YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THEM BEFORE US ANYWAY, THOUGH I APPRECIATE THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.



میں نے ان کو بتایا تھا کہ ان کے پاس ایک ایسا ہی ایکس پی رٹمنٹ ہے جس کی مدد سے ان کو یہ سب کچھ پتہ چل سکتا ہے۔ لیکن ان کو تو یہ سب کچھ پتہ نہیں چل سکا۔



RICHTER? ARE YOU WITH US?

YES, I--



NO POLICE, EH? FAIR ENOUGH.

HOW ABOUT YOU AND ME AND THESE BOYS WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT LIGHTNING STORM AND SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND THIS BEAST OF YOURS OURSELVES?

EH?



KASALADODON!



WELL, RICHTER,
I'M NOT SURE WHAT I
THOUGHT A HUNT THROUGH
THE WOODS IN A LIGHTNING
STORM WOULD BE LIKE, OLD
BEAN, BUT HERE WE ARE.





- Hey, what's up, gang? It's me, Benito. I'm going to take a look at some of your letters here, and my responses will look like this.

Let's get into these letters!

It's a little silly, but I have to ask about Akeldama's hair! Some angles it looks so lush & full, & some angles she looks bald. Does it only grow from the back of her head? Is her hair so unique because she's from a different planet? I'd love to know!

- jams1215

This is, no joke, probably the most asked question about this book. Even my wife looked at the covers and was like "Is her hair supposed to look like that?" The answer is that it's not hair! It's probably better to think of it as a free-floating plasma cloud that has Blood's head as its center of gravity. And yeah, it's definitely part of her alien biology.

Dear Blood & Thunder Team,

WHAT AN AMAZING FIRST ISSUE! I recently got back into comic collecting back in 2023 and have been having a ball with image comics. The way Robert Kirkman gave the run down on how far back this title goes especially where he got the name just shows a great love of the game and a beautiful way the stars aligned for this title to debut. My only question is about the Fulminator 1.0, Is there some other reason as to why IPPF don't use the Fulminator 1.0 besides their sidearm having feelings? Like the 1.0 model actually being made with the purpose of using non lethal tactics rather than being just a cut throat sidearm and could this decision actually be on the manufacturer having a change of heart towards the lower tiers?

Thanks for keeping me inspired and fueling my imagination with such a stellar title! Sidebar but I also graduated with my bachelor's in visual arts this same week of this title's release on May 3rd and still can't believe I did it!

Sincerely,
Arion Arscott
Toledo, Ohio

First of all, congratulations and best wishes on your degree! As for the Fulminators, the primary difference between the 1.0 (like Thunder) and the 2.0 (what the IPPF use now) is in fact just that the 1.0s' more human personalities and individuality led to them occasionally not having what the IPPF would consider the right temperament for the job. Thunder, as a depressive pacifist, is kind of an extreme example, but there were

enough personality conflicts that the IPPF decided to make a change.

Thunder is truly all of us.

This is the first time I've read a new release comic series and I have to say I'm loving it! I'm glad you arrived at this title, because I probably would not have started reading "Oola Lah: Space Police". It's a good name for an alien, but not so good for a comic.

I'll get right into the questions:

1. Where'd the idea for a tiered asteroid city come from? As soon as I saw that double page splash I was hooked.
2. Rus, how are you so good at your job?
3. Is there a length you already have in mind for this series?

Can't wait for next month,
Jared Kelly

Wow, what a great choice for your first new comic. Can't fault it.

1. One of Robert's earliest ideas for the series was a city on an asteroid that had two skylines pointing 180 degrees from each other. I took that and added the idea of the tiers because I was trying to imagine how such a vertically oriented city would work, and then the tiers led to a really obvious metaphor, and voila.

2. Rus is great, right? Does he have enough time to even answer this question? Rus, are you there?

Decades of reading comics, the mentorship of Chris Eliopoulos, and twenty-two years of practice! — Rus

3. I will say that we have been working on this book long enough and are far enough ahead that every comics creator friend I've talked to about this book has been utterly shocked at how many issues we already have in the can. So while I won't say a number, I can say we plan to be here for a little while.

Thanks for the great questions, everyone! I'll see you next month! Will Blood even be in the next issue? Who knows? Maybe it's the Dr Richter show from now on.

-Benito

I'd say the chance of Blood showing up are very strong. The chance of Thunder shutting up are near-zero. See you next month!

-Nachie

THE BIGGEST NEW ACTION SERIES OF THE YEAR FROM SUPERSTARS
ROBERT KIRKMAN & DAVID FINCH

SKINBREAKER

THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 2025

SKINBREAKER™ © 2025 Robert Kirkman, Inc. and David Finch.

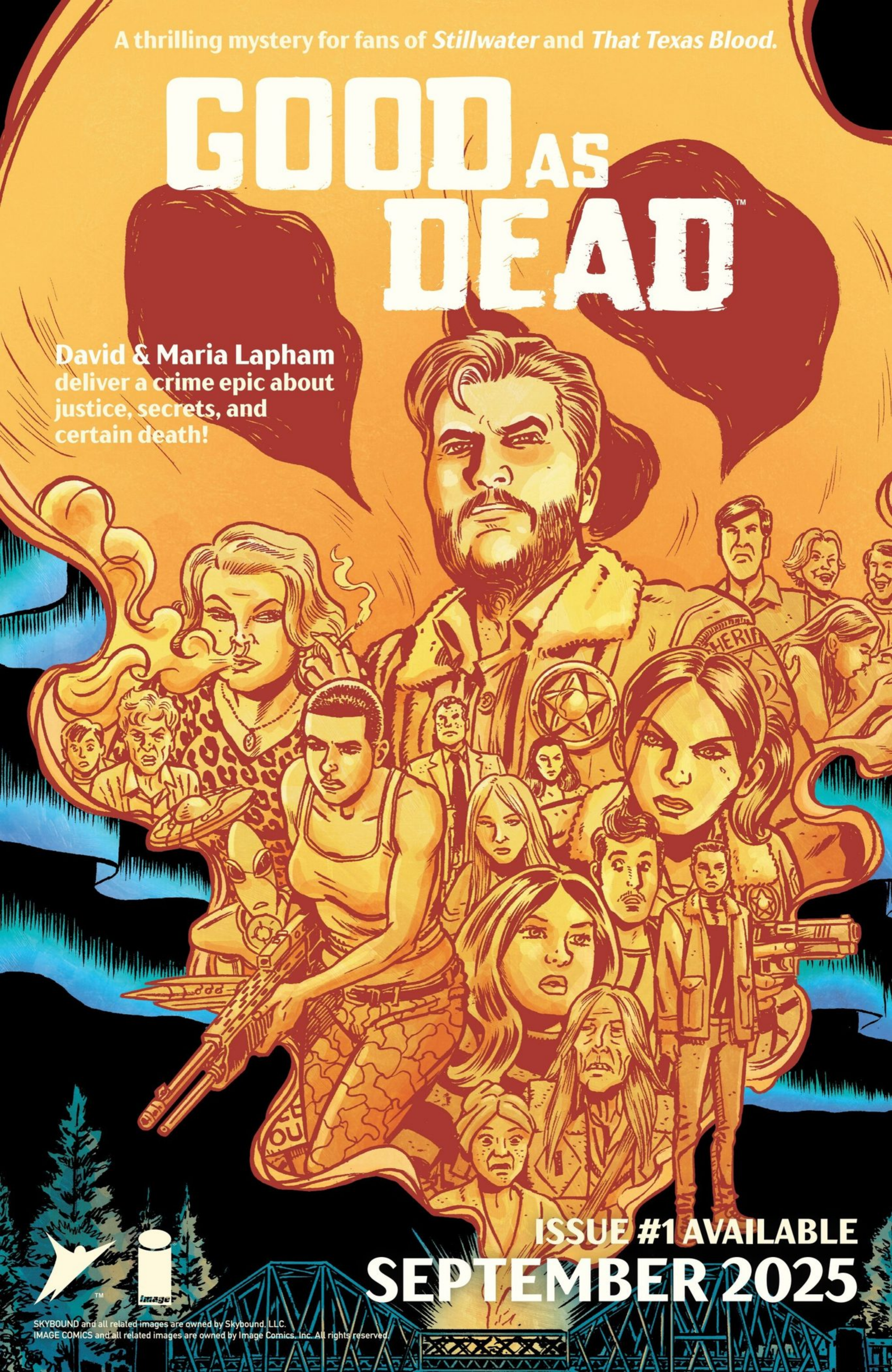
SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC. IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.



A thrilling mystery for fans of *Stillwater* and *That Texas Blood*.

GOOD AS DEAD™

David & Maria Lapham
deliver a crime epic about
justice, secrets, and
certain death!



ISSUE #1 AVAILABLE

SEPTEMBER 2025



SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC.
IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

THE UNRAVELLING OF A HORROR ICON FROM
JAMES TYNION IV AND DANI

UNIVERSAL
MONSTERS

THE INVISIBLE MAN

OUT OF
SIGHT...
OUT OF HIS
MIND!

ISSUE #1 APPEARS
AUGUST 2025



TM

© Universal City Studios LLC. All Rights Reserved. SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC.
IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.



ROBERT KIRKMAN AND DAN MORA BEGIN A NEW ERA

OVERSIZED

TRANSFORMERS

#25



THE

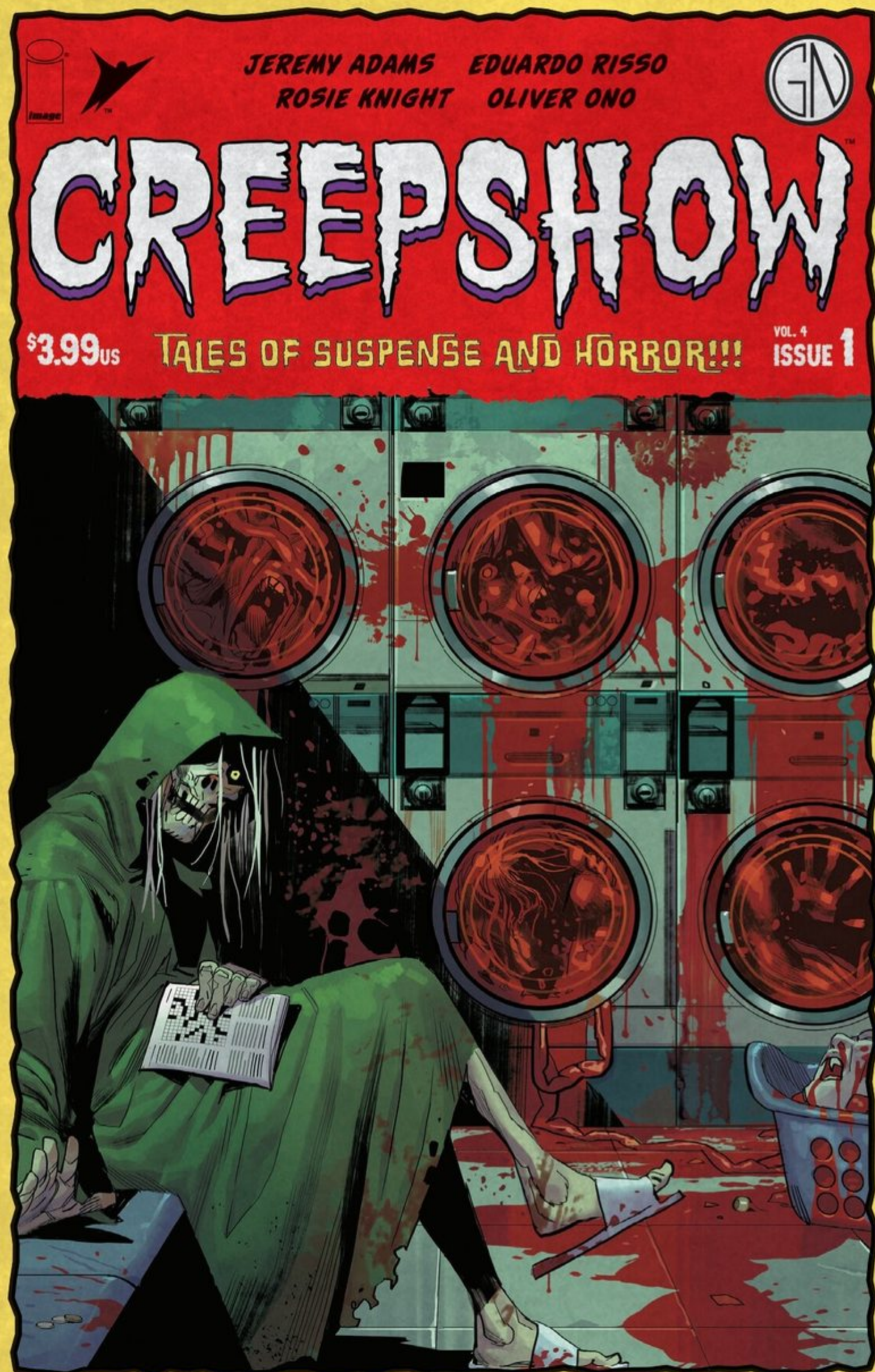
ENERGON UNIVERSE

CHANGES OCTOBER 2025



TRANSFORMERS and HASBRO and all related trademarks and logos are trademarks of Hasbro, Inc. ©2025 Hasbro. All rights reserved. SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC. IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

HALLOWEEN COMES EARLY THIS YEAR



GREG NICOTERO
PRESENTS AN
EARLY KICKOFF TO
SPOOKY SEASON
WITH YOUR
FAVORITE GHOULISH
STORYTELLER AND
FRIENDS JEREMY
ADAMS, ROSIE
KNIGHT, EDUARDO
RISSE, OLIVER ONO,
AND MORE!

THE SCARES
BEGIN **SEPTEMBER 2025**



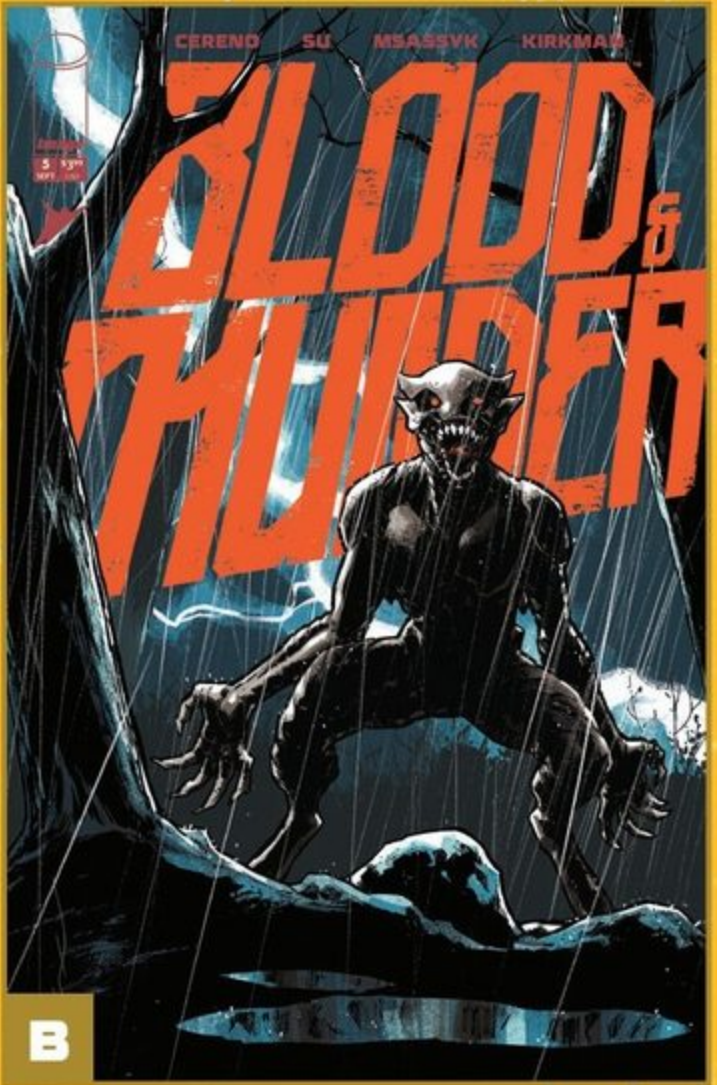
Creepshow™ © 2025 Evoke Entertainment Company, LLC. All rights reserved. Skybound™ and its logos are © of Skybound, LLC. All rights reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

THE HUNT CONTINUES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025



E.J. SU &
MSASSYK
COVER A

DAVID LOPEZ
COVER B

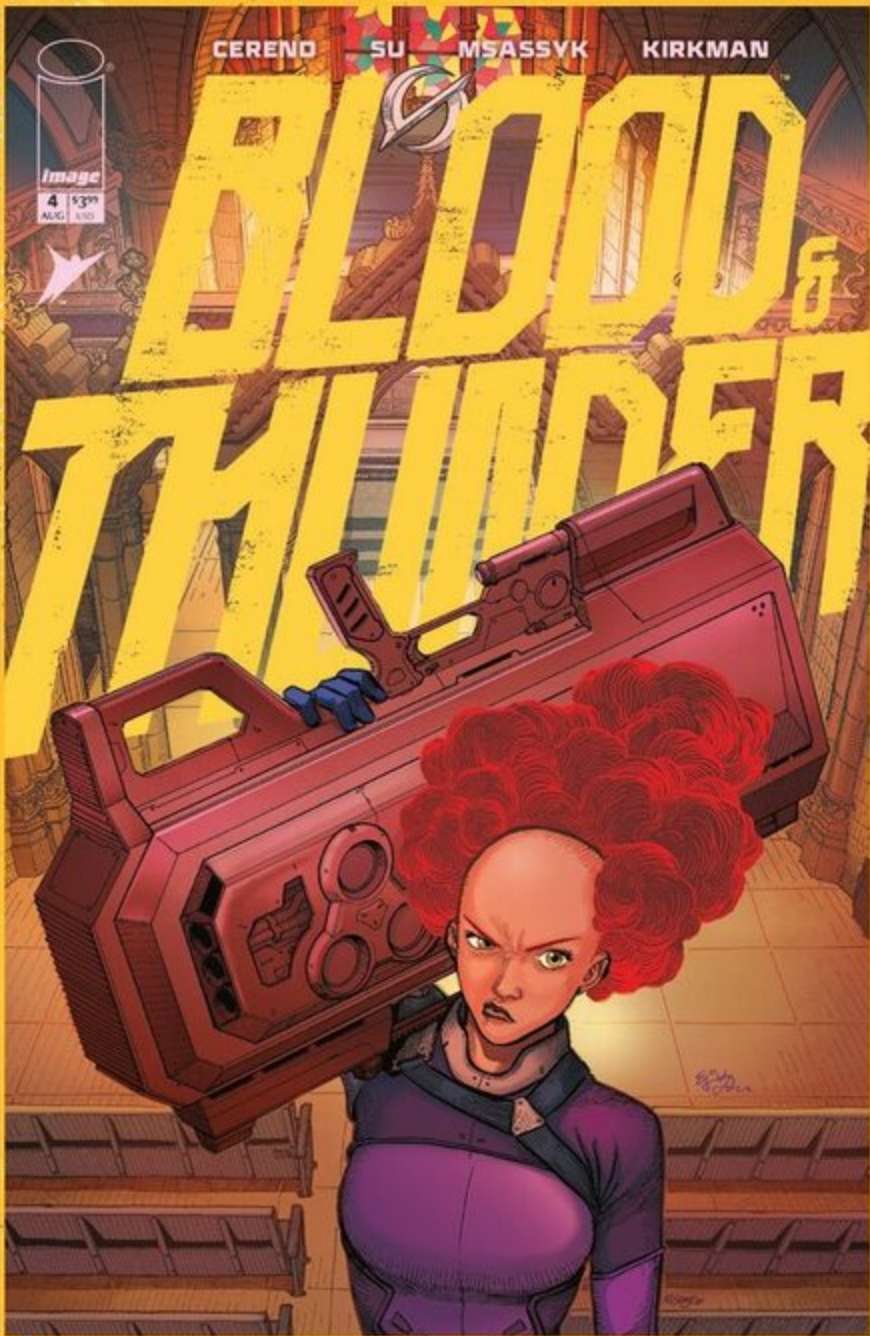


ANDIE TONG
& REX LOKUS
COVER C

BERNARD
CHANG
COVER D



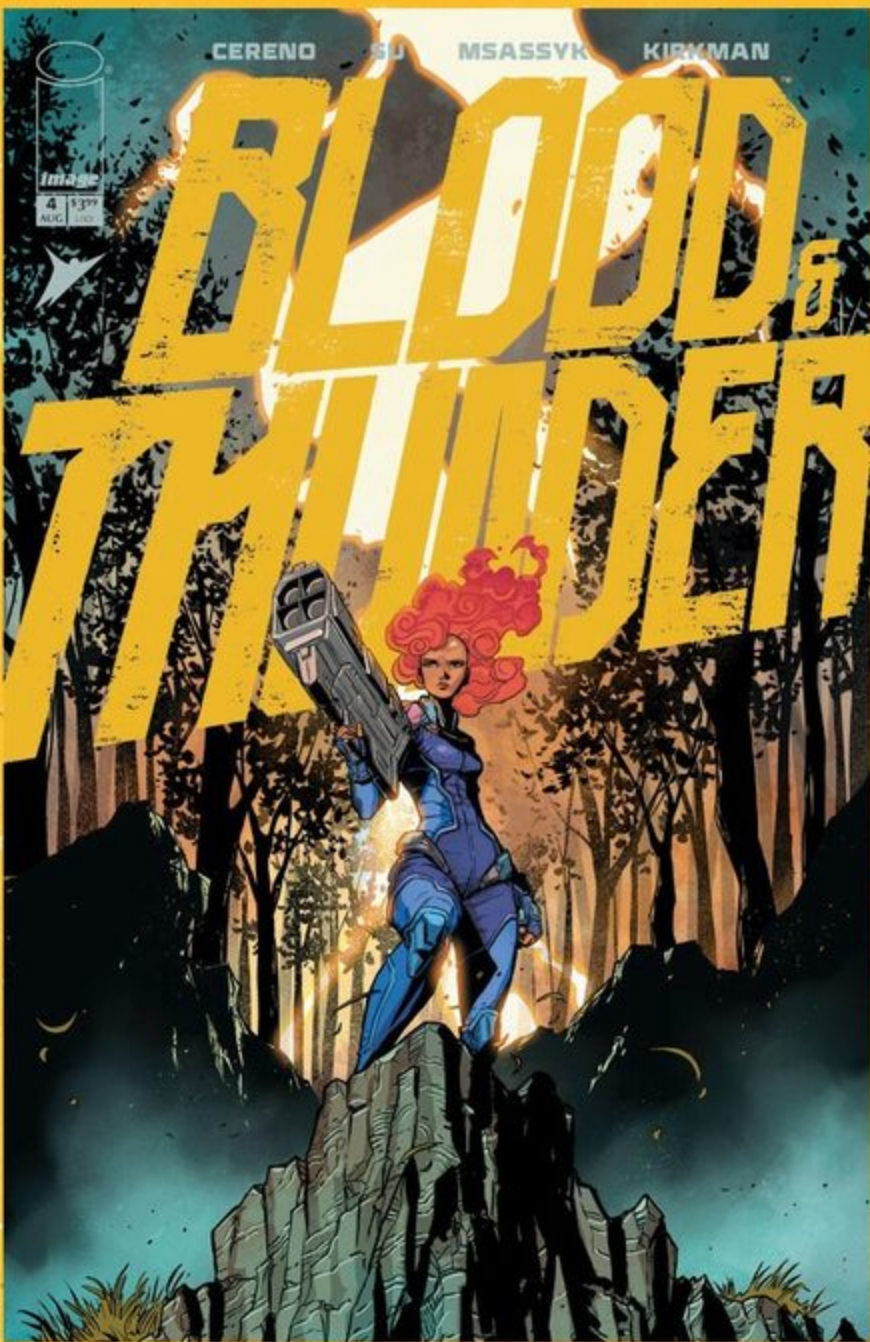
COLLECT ALL THE COVERS!



E.J. SU & MSASSYK



DAVID LOPEZ



ANDIE TONG & REX LOKUS



BERNARD CHANG

AVAILABLE NOW WHEREVER COMICS ARE SOLD

